

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL  
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 7 April 2011 at the Fort Rucker Landing. It was the 267th regularly scheduled meeting since the Council was established in 1973.

1. Members present/absent and advisors present were:

MEMBERS (Army Retiree, except as indicated)

PRESENT

COL Bob Bunting  
COL James Hyers  
LTC Collins  
CW4 Bob Cooper  
Mrs. Marie Wilkins

CSM Gene Nelson  
CSM James Harris  
1SG Ken Prier  
SFC Bernett Jergenson  
SFC Ralph Reed  
SFC Rickey Jones  
TSGT Bill Bieber, USAF

MEMBERS ABSENT

BG Douglas Smith

SMS Jean A. Woodruff, USAF

ADVISORS PRESENT

CSM Dwaine Walters, GCSM  
Mr. Jim Hughes, PAO  
Mr. Tim Laster, DFMWR

MAJ Laura Ricardo, LAHC  
Mr. Chris Moore, RSO  
Mr. Joe Escobar, AAFES

2. CSM Gene Nelson called the meeting to order at 1130 and COL Hyers opened the meeting with prayer.

3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.

4. Old Business. None

5. Committee Reports

a. Public Affairs – A calendar of upcoming events was provided to all attendees.

b. Legislative affairs - COL Hyers discussed changes to the way House leaders deal with pending legislation allowing members to offer a variety of amendments for open debate. It was the opinion of his source (MOAA) that this decision would result in a “budget cutting free-for-all” and possible disadvantageous amendments would be offered on relatively short notice with

limited time for rebuttal before a vote is taken. These new rules could affect military legislation and is expected to “drag out” the legislative process. CW4 Cooper reminded everyone that all US troops were withdrawn from the Republic of Vietnam on 30 March 1973 under terms of the Paris Peace treaty. The US Senate declared 30 March 2011 “Welcome Home Returning Vietnam Veterans Day,” with a quote from Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) that, “Never again should our men and women serving in the Armed Forces receive the same treatment as those returning from Vietnam.” He also reported on a joint venture with the VA’s Rural Health Initiative that was facilitated by Ms. Ernestine Doby. This event was held in the VA’s conference room at Lyster and attended by veteran service representatives from within the Wiregrass community.

c. Health Care – MAJ Ricardo, representing LAHC, addressed Retiree concerns about the effectiveness of the refill pharmacy and longer lines while awaiting services. A June Health Fair was announced and it was reported that ongoing construction of the medical facility is expected to be completed end of month April.

d. Community activity – LTC Collins reported that the Community Activity Center Advisory Council meeting of 16 March 2011 was “optimistic and upbeat.” He reported financial improvements at Mother Rucker’s and The Landing, and better staffing. The stated goal is profitability in all areas.

e. Commissary – It was reported that Mr. Ford was recently hired as the new Assistant Commissary Manager. No word was given on when a Manager would come on board. Mr. Ford will be asked to attend the next Council meeting.

f. Retiree Volunteer Support – TSGT Bieber requested participation in the ACS Needs Survey on the link [www.myarmyonesource.com/survey](http://www.myarmyonesource.com/survey) Fort Rucker. Completion of this survey will assist ACS in preparing for Accreditation.

g. Golf Course – CW4 Cooper discussed the “Spring Golf Intramural” beginning 3 May going through the summer, an increase in cart fees, and that professional instruction is available 3 days a week. The Golf Council met on 24 March and updated information will be provided later. The tournament to support AER will be 29 April 2011.

h. PX – Mr. Escobar discussed on-going sales at the PX and thanked everyone for their patronage. He reminded attendees of the PX “Price Match.” A question was raised about charging Retirees for uniform alterations and it was agreed upon that an update would be rendered at the next Council meeting.

i. Equestrian Center – 1SG Prier discussed the activities at the riding stables and the construction of the stable’s administration building. He reported that the handicap ramp is being re-worked for regulation compliance, approval of the alarm system has been granted by the fire station, and that workers are progressing on final details. Numerous activities are planned for both the experienced and inexperienced rider. He encouraged all to visit the area and provided attendee with a listing of scheduled events. He also stated that immunization/worming records were up to date, only 4 fencing projects remain, and that no facilities were down or inoperative.

j. Outdoor Recreation - SFC Jergenson discussed the feral pig population on post and the state regulations regarding that population. Hog hunting is from 1 May to 1 Sep 2011. A State depredation permit has been awarded to decrease the feral pig population. Hunters will be issued a free permit for hog hunting. Turkey hunting season ends 30 Apr and Lake Tholocco officially opens 30 May 2011.

k. Bowling Alley - No report.

l. RAD – Nothing new to report at this time.

6. Advisors' Comments. CSM Walters discussed a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Post Chapel and informed members that the upcoming Freedom Fest would feature Gary Sinise and "The Lt. Dan Band." Upcoming events include "Salute to Troops" 13 May 11, the Fort Rucker Memorial Day Ceremony 26 May 11 at Veterans Park and the Ozark Memorial Day Ceremony on 30 May 11 at Woodlawn Memory Park.

7. New Business. SFC Jones agreed to a year stint as the recorder. He asked that members submit a brief summary of comments (typed or legibly handwritten) immediately after the meeting's adjournment so they can be included in the report.

8. The meeting adjourned at 1225. The next meeting will be 1130, 6 May 2011 at The Landing.

Approved via-email

Bob Bunting  
COL, Retired  
Co-Chairman

Approved via-email

Gene Nelson  
CSM, Retired  
Co-Chairman

Prepared by:

Rickey L. Jones  
SFC, Retired  
Recorder



JAMES A. MUSKOPF  
Colonel, Aviation  
Garrison Commander

APR 29 2011